



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Statement on the Continuing Problem of Anti-Semitism in the OSCE Region**

As delivered by Chargé d' Affaires Kyle Scott  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
March 1, 2007

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Anti-Semitic incidents continue to plague our OSCE region at an alarming rate. Some, like the February 18<sup>th</sup> desecration of over 300 Jewish graves in Odessa, are given wide news coverage, but many others go unnoticed. With regard to the incident in Odessa, my delegation would like to commend the government of Ukraine for its prompt condemnation.

Recently, the New York Times reported that according to the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions, in France, anti-Semitic, physical attacks in France rose from 2005 to 2006 after a drop the previous year. The Council's report cited 213 anti-Semitic acts (including 112 cases of physical attacks) and 158 cases of anti-Semitic threats or insults.

We have also seen recent reports that hate crimes in Germany are at a five-year high—with the number of incidents up over fifty percent in the past two years. Meanwhile, the head of the Jewish community in Berlin linked the recent vandalism of a Jewish nursery school in that city to what he called growing anti-Semitism.

The European Union's Monitoring Center also confirms a rise in anti-Semitic incidents over the last five years. The Anti-Defamation League conducted a poll throughout the OSCE region of European attitudes in 2005, and concluded "despite good faith efforts by governments and the international community to counteract the anti-Semitism plaguing Europe, millions of Europeans continue to believe the classical anti-Semitic canards that have dogged Jews throughout the centuries."

Mr. Chairman and fellow delegates, I point out these reports not to criticize individual nations, which like many of our countries continue to grapple with anti-Semitism and other violent manifestations of intolerance. In fact, in the cases of Germany and France I would say that these are countries in the vanguard of efforts to combat anti-Semitism, who also train their own officials to recognize hate crimes and to report them. In fact, the European Union's Monitoring Center indicates that they have better reporting from these countries than from most countries in the OSCE region, precisely because of these efforts.

I instead raise these issues to highlight the fact of the continuing problem in our OSCE region.

We urge all of the participating States to ensure that the June Bucharest conference on tolerance, which is a follow-up to the Cordoba Conference on Anti-Semitism and Other Forms of Intolerance, gives proper focus to the problem of combating anti-Semitism in the OSCE region.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.